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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/879,304	06/12/2001	Shunsuke Yajima	71004-55992	3282
21874	7590	07/02/2004	EXAMINER	
EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP			GIBBS, HEATHER D	
P.O. BOX 55874				
BOSTON, MA 02205			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2622	

DATE MAILED: 07/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/879,304

Applicant(s)

YAJIMA, SHUNSUKE

Examiner

Heather D Gibbs

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 June 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 4 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 June 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3.4</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-3,5-6,8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Harada (US 5,534,973).

Regarding claim 1, Harada teaches of an image reading device which allows the read image information from a document to be used for multiple usage purposes, comprising: an image reading portion 3 for reading image information from the document; a document feeder 20 portion for feeding and conveying the document to the image reading portion; a multiple number of document trays 22,66 for feeding documents to the document feeder portion; a control portion 100 through which each of the multiple number of document trays can be designated to be used as a dedicated tray corresponding to the usage purpose and

Art Unit: 2622

which can provide the presentation of operational conditions corresponding to the usage purpose; and a controller 114 which, when the documents is placed on one of the dedicated trays, automatically selects among the multiple sets of operational conditions, one set of operational conditions for the usage purpose designated for the document-placed, dedicated tray and presents said one set of operational conditions on the control portion (Col 3 Lines 17-30; Col 7 Lines 17-30).

Considering claim 2, Harada wherein the control portion includes a display portion and the presentation of the operational conditions is displayed on the display portion (Col 7 Lines 30-38).

Considering claim 3, Harada teaches wherein the control portion comprised a condition setting portion, through which the multiple document trays are allotted to individual dedicated trays each corresponding to a different usage purpose (Col 7 Lines 38-41).

Regarding claim 5, Harada teaches wherein setup of the dedicated trays or designation of the usage purposes to the multiple document tray is made by the controller managing and analyzing the usage purposes of pieces of image information which have been read over a certain period of time (Col 6 Lines 52-64; Fig 5).

Considering claim 6, Harada wherein, when documents are placed on multiple dedicated trays, the controller keeps the presentation of the operating conditions for a first dedicated tray on which the document was placed first unchanged until input of the operational conditions for the first dedicated tray for that tray is completed (Col 8 Lines 34-42).

Art Unit: 2622

Regarding claim 8, Harada teaches wherein, when no document is placed on any of dedicated trays, multiple sets of operational conditions are displayed in the control portion and when the document is placed on the dedicated tray, the controller automatically presents one set of the operating conditions for the usage purpose of the document-placed, dedicated tray (Col 6 Lines 42-51).

Considering claim 9, Harada teaches wherein the usage purposes of image information at least include: image formation usage on a recording medium and transmission usage (Col 6 Lines 14-41).

Regarding claim 10, Harada teaches of an image forming apparatus 4 comprising an image-reading device (Col 3 Lines 17-30; Col 6 Lines 14-18; Fig 6).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harada (US 5,534,973) in view of Doery (US 4,508,447).

Harada discloses the image reading device as discussed above.

Art Unit: 2622

Harada does not disclose expressly wherein when documents are placed on multiple dedicated trays, after the document reading operation for first dedicated tray on which documents were placed starts, the presentation of the operating conditions for a second dedicated tray on which the document was placed subsequently is given.

Doery discloses an alternative feeding document recirculation in which when both sheets are placed on the multiple trays the document feeder automatically initiates alternate sequential feeding of documents from both trays 21 and 22 (Col 17 Lines 49-63).

Harada & Doery are combinable because they are from automatic document feeders.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine Doery's presence of documents on multiple trays with the image-reading device of Harada.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been as Doery teaches wherein the system would provide higher speed recirculatory precollation copying of sets of original document sheets (Col 1 Lines 5-7).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Harada with Doery to obtain the invention as specified in claim 7.

Regarding Claim 11, An image forming apparatus which allows the read image information from a document to be used for multiple usage purposed, comprising: an image forming portion for forming image on recording media in accordance with the image information; a transmitter for transmitting the image information; an image reading portion for reading image information from the document; a document feeder portion for feeding and conveying the document of the image reading portion; a multiple number of document trays for feeding documents to the document feeder portion; a control portion through which

Art Unit: 2622

each of the multiple number document trays can be designated to be used as the dedicated tray for image formation or that for transmission and which can provide the presentation of the operational conditions for image formation and that of the operational conditions of transmission; and a controller which, when the document is placed on one of the designated trays, automatically selects from sets of operations conditions for image formation and transmission, one set of the operational conditions corresponding to the document-placed, dedicated tray and presents said set of operations conditions on the control portion, is representative of claims 1-10 and hence is rejected the same reasoning as discussed above.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Art Unit: 2622

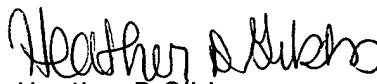
Conclusion


7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Heather D Gibbs whose telephone number is 703-306-4152. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8AM-4PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on 703-305-4712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

hdg


Heather D Gibbs
Examiner
Art Unit 2622


EDWARD COLES
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